Amendments to the Claims:

The following claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in this application (in the unlikely event that no claims follow herein, the previously pending claims will remain):

1.   (Original) A method for encoding information, for transmission of the encoded information to a device that can display the encoded information as visible alphanumeric characters, comprising the steps of:

converting an n-digit information into a binary format;

separating the binary format into x bit binary words, where x is the same as a

maximum number of bits data required by every data character in a pre-determined data character map;

converting the x bit binary words into a sequence of characters using the data character map;

inserting special marker characters into the sequence that demarcate the sequence into sets of characters separated by one or more special marker characters;

inserting one or more special marker characters at the beginning and end of the sequence; and

inserting line feed command characters into the sequence prior to transmission.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein,

x is four or five.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

the data character map excludes one or more alphanumeric characters because of the potential for confusion at a visual level with another character.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

the special marker character is the symbol =.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

the line feed command characters divide the sequence into portions that are visually displayable when received by a user's device, as two or more lines of equal length.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein:

each line initiates and terminates with one or more special marker characters.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein:

each line is subdivided by one or more special marker characters.

8-20.   (Cancelled)